

I submit the following concerning the FCC's proposed changes to local broadcasting.

1. Local Christian broadcasting is especially important to me as it brings light to my world, helping me to deal with pressures that otherwise seem insurmountable. It is important that Christian radio in particular is allowed to continue as current.
2. The FCC must not force radio stations to take advice from people who do not share their values- especially Christian stations. The proposed NPRM advisory board would impose limitations on stations not sharing their values and bring harassment and complaints simply because someone does not agree with their programming. In an area like New England, the chances of an evangelical voice being on a local board is unlikely. Christian stations need to be free to broadcast in areas not otherwise represented.
3. The FCC must not force every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone has rights to air time. Proposed requirements would strip away First Amendments right to freedom of religion from the imposition of government controls.
4. The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision-making information. The choice of programming, especially by Christian stations must not be dictated by any government agency - and proposals to force reporting on such things as who produced what programs would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.
5. The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. This proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who remain true to their consciences and present only messages in concert with their values and beliefs would face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.
6. Many Christian and smaller broadcasters operate on tight budgets. Keeping the lights on and paying rent is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks - and curtailed service is contrary to the public interest.

I urge the FCC not to adopt these rules, procedures or policies discussed above.

With deep concern,  
Lee Edwards  
13 Viking Drive  
Portsmouth, RI 02871 401-683-2733